

"Neque temere nec timide."

THE THIRD REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF
TENBY,

*Being that for the Year commencing 25th March, 1874, and ending
24th March, 1875,*

PREPARED FOR THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH BY THEIR
MEDICAL OFFICER,

JOHN GRIFFITH LOCK, M.A. CANTAB.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS;
LICENTIATE IN MIDWIFERY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS;
LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;
LICENTIATE IN MIDWIFERY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;
LICENTIATE OF THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY;
FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY.

TENBY:

R. MASON, PRINTER, "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

1875.

“Neque temere nec timide.”

THE THIRD REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF
TENBY,

*Being that for the Year commencing 25th March, 1874, and ending
24th March, 1875,*

PREPARED FOR THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH BY THEIR
MEDICAL OFFICER,

JOHN GRIFFITH LOCK, M.A. CANTAB.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS;
LICENTIATE IN MIDWIFERY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS;
LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;
LICENTIATE IN MIDWIFERY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;
LICENTIATE OF THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY;
FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY.

TENBY:

R. MASON, PRINTER, “OBSERVER” OFFICE.

1875.

“Life is sweet, and we are all interested in noting—in order that we may neutralize—the causes of its destruction.”

“Death seizes us in various ways ; it would be instructive if a paragraph in this report showed how many fall before him through (their own or others’) ‘misconduct or want of caution.’”

“At present, there is no widespread or deep belief in the public mind as to the possibility of any such skilled analysis as shall not only trace disease to its remote causes, but place in the hands of experts the means of warding off its visitations ; at least, there is not such a belief as makes ratepayers willing that their representatives should expend money raised from them by taxation upon what are called sanitary improvements, and bitter hostility is constantly expressed and shown to action in this direction. It is about as difficult to make people healthy by Act of Parliament as it is by the same means to hope to secure them education, religion, or morality. I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that compulsory legislation must not be too hastily or peremptorily forced on an unwilling community. It is only by co-operation of all the members of the State success can be secured ; and this must be through gradual and progressive teaching, both by precept and example, spread over the present and the immediate future. It must be shown by unmistakable examples over and over again repeated that drainage of the subsoil of houses materially lessens, if it do not altogether destroy, tuberculoid disease, before owners of small property will be compelled by public opinion to replace the sodden floors and foundations of inhabited cottages which now place a premium on the prevalence of this most formidable class of disease. Long extended experience of impunity from many forms of chest-disease, where the air is no longer loaded with the products of combustion, may force even manufacturers no longer to poison the atmosphere ; and the claims of humanity may even supersede the necessities of commerce, and allow health-giving streams of pure water to take the place of pollution and poison which now flow down our river beds. It will take long years of patient insistence to make it universally admitted that the presence of pure air in dwellings is as essential as food and clothing, and that sound health can only be maintained by a copious supply of pure water. The removal of human excreta from man’s dwelling-places will over and over again, in the future as in the past, save thousands and tens of thousands of lives, that would have been otherwise self-destroyed ; and the diminished death-rates, the prolonged life-space, in districts where sanitary measures have been efficiently carried out, must preach in small still voice, persistently, and long before the voice is heard and universally acknowledged ; but progress is certain, though slow, and must be patiently waited for.—*Address in Medicine. By W. H. Michael, Esq.*

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

As approved by the Tenby Local Board of Health, the first day of May, 1872.

I. To discover what local causes prejudicially affect the public health in the district; to inform the Board of the discovered causes, and to suggest such means for their removal as medical science can advise.

II. To seek early information of the occurrence of cases of epidemic or contagious diseases, and when informed, to visit the localities: ascertain the extent of the disease, the local causes likely to conduce to the diffusion thereof, and give such warning as may induce the persons affected to have recourse to medical treatment. In case of an outbreak of small pox, to enquire into the history thereof, and as to the practice of vaccination in the neighbourhood.

N.B.—The Board earnestly hope that all resident medical men will render every assistance in their power to their Medical Officer by sending him *early information* in all cases of *contagious diseases*.

III. To inspect any meat exposed for sale for human food, whenever required to do so by an officer of this Board, or any police officer, and to give opinion as to the fitness or otherwise of such meat being used for human food, whenever required by a Justice of the Peace.

IV. Upon any complaint received of the emission of any noxious or offensive smell from any yard, house, premises, pigsties, slaughter-houses, or of atmospheric pollution from any drains or sewers, to enquire into the causes and report upon the means for the prevention thereof.

V. To perform any duties imposed by any Act of Parliament on the Medical Officer of Health.

VI. To report, quarterly, the nature and amount of sickness and death, the number of births and persons vaccinated: and to present, annually, a report and tabular return of the ascertained sickness and mortality of the district.

VII. To attend the meetings of the Local Board when necessary, due notice thereof having been given by the Clerk to the Board.

25th March, 1875.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay the following Report before you on the Sanitary Condition of the District under your charge, for the year commencing 25th March, 1874, and ending 24th March, 1875.

1. POPULATION.—The Census of this Borough, taken in April, 1871, gave the return as 3788, besides 22 sailors in port; the number of inhabited houses as 661. I believe that since that date there has been an increase in both numbers.

2. MARRIAGES for the year numbered only 16. 10 in the Church, and 6 in the various Chapels. These are 4 less than last year, and 9 less than two years ago.

3. BIRTHS.—The total number of children born in the district is 115; of these 54 are males, 61 females; included in this number are 12 illegitimate children, viz., 4 males and 8 females. The number of births is 1 more than last year. The increase in illegitimate children is very great, being 8 more this year; and it may be noticed that the females number double the males.

4. VACCINATION in the first quarter numbered 40; in the second 8; in the third 37; and in the fourth 4; total 89; so that, allowing for a few early deaths, there are a good many cases to be vaccinated.

5. DEATHS.—The mortality for the past year is 102; namely, 39 males and 63 females. This is an increase over last year of 25, and whilst then the females exceeded the number of the men by 7, now the increase has been excessive, viz., 24. 33 were under the age of 5 years, 16 males and 17 females. 69 were over 5 years and under 100, 23 males and 46 females. Here the number of females doubled that of the males. This excess arises in the contagious and epidemic diseases, where, out of 11 deaths, 10 were females; and from old age, where again, out of 12 deaths, 11 were females. There has been 1 death from accident; there was an inquest, and a verdict returned of "Accidentally drowned." It was the case of an artillery man stationed at St. Catherine's Fort, who is believed

to have attempted to cross to the island at night when the tide was in. The body was found the next morning at some distance from the island. 7 visitors have died amongst us, 3 males and 4 females; and there have been 2 deaths in the Cottage Hospital.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.—In this class the death rate has been extremely high, owing to an epidemic of Measles, Typhus Fever and Puerperal Fever. Pyæmia (blood-poisoning) has also increased the number. Last year there was only 1 death in this class: this year 15! There have been a great many cases of Erysipelas, but none have proved fatal. Puerperal Fever has been very fatal amongst us during the past year, and Erysipelas is often very prevalent at the same time. From the information I have received, I believe there was one if not two cases of Erysipelas in the house where the first case of Puerperal Fever occurred. We are not worse off here than in other parts of England and Wales, as Puerperal Fever has been very prevalent everywhere.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES this year are 7 less than last year. There have not been so many cases of Consumption or Cancer.

LOCAL DISEASES (Nervous System).—Here there has been an increase of 6. There are 4 deaths from Apoplexy, whilst last return gave none.

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.—The number is 3 less than last year.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.—In consequence of the severity of the winter and early spring, the mortality in this class has greatly increased, and has been more amongst adults and elderly people than children.

DIGESTIVE ORGANS.—The deaths are 4 less than last year.

IN CONDITIONS NOT NECESSARILY ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASES have occurred the largest number of deaths, viz., 23. Old Age, numbers 12; Debility, 9; and Premature Birth, 2. Out of 12 for Old Age 11 were females. 2 had reached the advanced ages of 95 and 92. 5 were respectively 89, 84, 87, 84, 83, and 5 were 78, 78, 72, 75, 70. The years passed by these persons, added together, reached the large number of 987 years, giving an average of $82\frac{1}{2}$ each. Debility claims 9; 8 females and 1 male, all below the age of 1 year. A great many of these deaths could be prevented, if the parents did not err through ignorance and stubbornness. The

cause lies in the mode of feeding. Mothers imagine that "spoon meat" is necessary for infants, whereas the stomach of the tender babe cannot digest anything more than the mother's milk, which nature provides. When, for many reasons, that fails, then the nearest substitute must be provided, and that is milk and water, sweetened with a small quantity of sugar. This is generally sufficient till the child is 7 months old. It is stated at the Hospital for Sick Children, in London, that "Three out of four children brought up by hand die." I believe that in the deaths from Convulsions several might be traced to improper feeding; and if these could be added to those who die from debility, it would be seen what a large number of lives are *unnecessarily* lost every year.

I have added to my Report a table of the causes of, and ages at, death in the borough of Tenby, from the 25th March, 1874, to the 24th March, 1875.

RAINFALL OF YEAR.—Dr. Dyster has as usual supplied me with the rainfall for the year, from which it will be seen that there was nearly the same amount as in the former year.

(Rain is estimated in inches; that is, the fall of an inch of rain implies that on any given area, say a square inch of surface, rain has fallen equal to 1 inch in depth.)

*Rainfall from March 25, 1874,
to March 24, 1875.*

1874.	
March.....	0·15
April.....	1·43
May.....	0·65
June.....	0·75
July.....	0·94
August.....	3·13
September.....	3·36
October.....	3·42
November.....	1·98
December.....	4·29
1875.	
January.....	4·94
February.....	1·82
March 24th.....	1·05

27·91

*Rainfall from March 25, 1873,
to March 24, 1874.*

1873.	
March.....	0·27
April.....	0·98
May.....	2·08
June.....	1·15
July.....	2·22
August.....	3·58
September.....	3·98
October.....	2·50
November.....	2·37
December.....	1·02
1874.	
January.....	3·77
February.....	1·85
March 24th.....	1·64

27·41

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I will just mention that the sanitary improvements carried out during the past twelve months have been very few. The Slaughter Houses are in a filthy state; all blood and garbage from them is thrown directly into the stream flowing by: some of this is deposited on the banks around, and some is carried up to the cottages near. The town has very much increased since these houses were built, and I should imagine they are not large enough for their purpose. Cottages also have been built all around in their neighbourhood, and I think it is imperative on you to build new ones elsewhere more suitable for the number of butchers (or let the butchers build some on sites to be approved of by your Board), and not close to any human dwellings.

The stream flowing past the Slaughter Houses is very dirty and requires cleaning out. It moreover is polluted by sewage and gas water, contrary to your own bye-laws and the "Sewage Utilization Act."

The Marsh is in a horrible state. The culvert has been blocked up for many weeks, and the water has been allowed to collect on the land and the roads, till the latter became impassible. The water has been into the lower rooms of the cottages near, and the dampness that the inhabitants have been living in has been something dreadful. When the water is taken off this land, the smell will be very bad, and productive of sickness. In my opinion our epidemic of Typhus Fever was entirely due to this water and sewage flowing into the stream. It was confined to the cottagers living round, and the Medical Officer to the Poor Law Board expressed to you the same opinion, at one of your meetings.

The Police Station is quite unfit to lock up human beings in, and you, Gentlemen, should really grapple with the difficulty and erect a new one.

The cottages at the top of Chimney Park, which were condemned two years ago, have been either closed, or altered so as to render them fit for habitation.

The closet on the Pier is very unsatisfactory, and requires constant attention to keep it clean.

A great deal of the town remains undrained, and the sooner it is

done the better. There is no ventilation to any of the sewers ; this ought to be remedied, and at once.

It is extremely difficult to get any information as to the whereabouts of infectious cases. I have had *not a single case reported to me.*

I have the honour to remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GRIFFITH LOCK.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF TENBY, FROM THE 25TH MARCH, 1874,
TO THE 24TH MARCH, 1875.

DISEASES.	AGES BELOW																			TOTALS.
	1	2	3	4	5	Below 5 M. F.	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	Above 5 M. F.			
A.—GENERAL DISEASES, CONTAGIOUS, EPIDEMIC.																				
4. Measles	1	2	0	0	0	0 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	3		
5. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
7. Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 2	2		
9. Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
20. Hooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
31. Pyæmia	1	0	0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1 0	2		
32. Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 5	5		
																			15	
CONSTITUTIONAL.																				
44. Cancer	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1 1	2		
Fibro Cartilaginous Tu- mour of Ribs	0	1	0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1		
49. Scrophula	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2 2	4		
6. Consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
52. Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0		
53. Purpura	1	0	0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0		
6. Hæmorrhagica	1	1	0	0	0	2 0	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	3 4	9		
B.—LOCAL DISEASES. NERVOUS SYSTEM.																				
65. Apoplexy	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1 3	4		
67. Chronic Hydrocephalus	3	1	0	1	0	3 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	5		
70. White softening of Brain	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1 3	4		
84. Paralysis	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2 0	2		
92. Infantile Convulsions	4	0	1	0	0	4 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	5		
																			20	
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.																				
Heart Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1 4	5		
219. Pericarditis	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
248. Arteriz Occlusæ 1. Thrombosis	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
250. Aneurism	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1 1	2		
																			9	
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.																				
306. Bronchitis	1	3	0	0	0	3 1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1 2	7		
315. Inflammation of the Lungs	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	7 1	8		
318. Congestion	1	0	0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1		
																			16	
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.																				
449. Gastritis	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
464. Enteritis	1	0	0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	1		
506. Cirrhosis	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
514. Obstruction of Vena Portæ	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1 0	1		
																			4	
URINARY SYSTEM.																				
538. Bright's Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0	1		
1. Acute	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1 1	2		
2. Chronic	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0		
																			3	
ORGANS OF PARTURITION.																				
709. Hæmorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
a. Placenta Prævia	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0		
																			1	
ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.																				
771. Abscess of Hip	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 1	1		
																			1	
C.—CONDITIONS NOT NE- CESSARILY ASSOCIA- TED WITH GENERAL OR LOCAL DISEASES.																				
903. Premature Birth	2	0	0	0	1	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	2		
904. Old Age	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0		
905. Debility	9	0	0	0	1	8 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	2	1 11	12	9		
																			23	
VIOLENT DEATHS.																				
995. Asphyxia by Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		
																			1	
																			33	
																			69	102
																			102	

N.B.—The figures preceding the names of Diseases refer to the numbers in the "Nomenclature of Diseases," published by the Royal College of Physicians of London, and medical men would greatly assist the Medical Officer of Health by using this book when giving certificates of death.

